

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 01385 291210Z
ACTION SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5838
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 1385

FOR S/S-0

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XX, US
SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 282272

1. DHAHRAN STRONGLY URGES CONTINUED PUBLICATION OF CURRENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CFR). AS AN ISOLATED SUBORDINATE POST, WE FIND CFR ONE OF FEW REASONABLY CURRENT SOURCES OF POLICY GUIDANCE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS. WITH CLASSIFIED POUCH DELIVERY FROM THE DEPARTMENT AVERAGING 40 DAYS, ONLY A TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY, SUCH AS CFR, IS OF MUCH VALUE TO US.

2. LIKE OTHER SMALL POSTS IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE WORLD, DHAHRAN DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MANY SOURCES OF "TIMELY, HIGH QUALITY ANALYTICAL ARTICLES ON SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS". RADIO NEW BROADCASTS, LOW QUALITY LOCAL ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS AND THE TARDY INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE BY THEMSELVES WOULD BE POOR SUBSTITUTES FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S WEEKLY CFR, EVEN IF CFR WAS TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT FORMAL THRUST. HOWEVER, WE AGREE THAT CFR IN ITS PRESENT FORM CARRIES TOO MANY ARTICLES
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WRITTEN BASICALLY AS A NEWS SUMMARY WITH TOO LITTLE ANALYSIS OR EMPHASIS ON POLICY ASPECTS OF ISSUES COVERED. DRAFTERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE IN EACH ARTICLE IF POSSIBLE A BRIEF SECTION ON WHAT THE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED MEAN TO THE US (OUR ECONOMY, FOREIGN POLICY, ETC.). COMMENTS ON CURRENT TRENDS OR FUTURE PROSPECTS WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL.

3. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD TRY TO IMPROVE
THE CFR, ESPECIALLY BY INCREASING ANALYTICAL CONTENT AND MORE
CLEARLY OUTLINING EFFECTS ON THW US, RATHER THAT GIVE UP
COMPLETELY A PUBLICATION WHICH IS ONE OF FEW SOURCES OF WASHINGTON
THINKING CONCERNING SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.
BUSHNELL

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Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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